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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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August 28, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **HIV/AIDS DENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

On July 23, 2002, Ms. Genevieve Clavreul testified at the Board that the USC School of Dentistry had sent a letter to an HIV/AIDS patient saying that USC had not been paid by the County. This is to provide you with information as to the current status of the County's contract with the University of Southern California Dental School (USC) for HIV/AIDS Dental Services.

USC has been a provider of HIV/AIDS dental services for a number of years. Their current year Board approved contract was sent to them for signature in April 2002. The Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP) was first notified by USC that its Contracts and Grants Section had concerns regarding contractual language in June 2002. Since that date, OAPP has consulted with County Counsel and has clarified and negotiated with various levels of dental school and USC administration staff to resolve outstanding issues. Remaining contractual issues have been clarified and it is expected that USC will sign and return their contract this week.

USC issued a warning letter to a limited number of their ongoing patients that they may not be able to get future services for lack of a contract with the County. In fact, they did have a contract but at that point were unwilling to sign the contract. The patient who complained to the commission has received several visits since he received the letter and his current dental work has been completed.

A secondary issue, close to resolution, is that payment of USC's invoices for last year's contract was stopped in September 2001, because of non-submission of required documentation. USC has made substantial progress in supplying this documentation and OAPP is awaiting the final documents so that their remaining payment for the last contract term can be released.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:rcf
208:001

c: Chief Administrative Officer
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Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

bc: Jonathan E. Fielding
John Schunhoff
Charles Henry